



## THIS WEEK IN OLYMPIA *early learning updates*

**April 24 - 26, 2009**

*The following information is a brief summary on the bills introduced, bill activity, and key hearings that the Department of Early Learning (DEL) has monitored. This weekly summary is not an indication of bills or positions supported by DEL. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bills and hearings related to issues impacting early learning.*

**This is the final edition of TWIO for the 2009 Legislative session which adjourned on April 26, 2009.**

### **Hearings / Floor Action\*:**

- On late Friday evening, the House passed [ESHB 1244](#), a bill making operating appropriations for fiscal years 2007-2009 and 2009-2011, with four floor amendments. The final vote was 54 yeas and 42 nays. The bill was sent to the Senate for consideration.
- On Saturday, the Senate agreed with the House amendments and passed [ESHB 1244](#), a bill making operating appropriations for fiscal years 2007-2009 and 2009-2011. The final vote was 29 yeas and 20 nays. The bill was delivered to the Governor on the final day of session.

Among the key early learning investments in [ESHB 1244](#):

- **Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)**—Funded at about \$111.4 million for the biennium. This means a slight reduction in enrollment slots, primarily in locations with both ECEAP and Head Start slots; it also means a cut in funding for DEL to administer the program.
  - **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)**—\$1 million in federal economic stimulus funding are earmarked for DEL to contract with Thrive by Five Washington to pilot Seeds to Success. (The Legislature also passed a supplemental budget for state fiscal year 2009 that includes \$400,000 for DEL for QRIS work.)
  - **Kindergarten assessment**—\$100,000 for DEL and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to work with stakeholders on a kindergarten assessment process, dependent upon an equal amount of private match funding.
  - **Family, Friend & Neighbor Caregivers**—\$400,000 for FFN caregiver support.
  - **Child Care Resource & Referral**—\$1.7 million for resource and referral services in federal economic stimulus funding and state funding.
  - **Career & Wage Ladder**—\$3 million in federal economic stimulus funding and state funding.
  - **Infant/Toddler Child Care**—Legislative language directs the infant/toddler quality set-aside of the Child Care and Development Fund economic stimulus funding to focus on training, technical assistance and child care consultation.
- There is a possibility that the Governor may call a special session in the coming weeks or months.

*\*Notes: April 26 was the scheduled end of the 2009 regular Legislative Session.*

See the Legislature's [glossary](#) of terms.